Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AID-05 IGA-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 AGRE-00 EUR-12 DODE-00 /046 W

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P 050950Z APR 77 FM AMEMBASSY DACCA TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4122

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PASS AGRICULTURE AND AID/ASIA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, EAGR, BD

SUBJECT: BDG REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL TITLE I COMMODITIES

REF: STATE 073574

- 1. DURING THE PAST WEEK THE AMBASSADOR, USAID DIRECTOR AND CHIEF OF USAID'S COMMODITY LOGISTICS STAFF VISITED CHITTAGONG TO INSPECT SILOS, RPAIR OF JETTY AND GENERALLY TO GET AN UPDATE ON THE PORT CAPACITY TO HANDLE SHIPMENTS.
- 2. USG OFFICIALS WERE ASSURED BY DIRECTOR OF CHITTAGONG PORT TRUST KABIR AND BY VISITS TO SITES THAT AS OF MID-APRIL THE CHITTAGONG PORT SHOULD BE ABLE TO HANDLE ITS NORMAL LOAD OF FOODGRAINS OF UP TO 200,000 METRIC TONS PER MONTH. THE SAME ASSURANCE WAS PROVIDED TO US BY AIR VICE MARSHAL MAHMOOD, THE BDG ADVISOR FOR FOOD, AND BY THE BDG DELEGATION DURING RECENT TITLE I NEGOTIATIONS.
- 3. THE ABILITY TO MOVE FOODGRAINS FROM PORTS UP COUNTRY WILL DEPEND IN LARGE MEASURE ON WHEN THE FOODGRAINS ARE OFFLOADED. TRADITIONALLY THE MONSOON PERIOD POSES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PROBLEMS FOR SHIPMENTS UP COUNTRY. HOWEVER, APART FROM WEATHER CONDITIONS WE HAVE BEEN ASSURED BY THE BDG THAT THEIR NORMAL QUANTITY OF TRUCKS, RAILROAD WAGONS AND COSTAL VESSELS WILL BE AVAILABLE AND FULLY UTILIZED. THIS WILL BE THE FIRST FULL SEASON WITHOUT AVAILABILITY OF THE GREEK CHARTERED MINIBULKERS FOR OFFLOADING. HOWEVER, BDG OFFICIALS BELIEVE THEY CAN HANDLE FOODGRAIN LOAD

BY ASSIGNMENT OF ADDITIONAL COSTAL VESSELS TO THE TASK.

- 4. GENERAL ZIA TOLD THE AMBASSADOR HE WILL DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO HANDLE THE MOVEMENT OF FOODGRAINS INTO AND THROUGH THE PORT, INCLUDING USE OF THE MILITARY IF NECESSARY. WE WILL MONITOR THIS SITUATION CLOSELY AS LARGE AMOUNTS OF FOODGRAINS BEGIN TO ARRIVE AND WILL CALL ANY PROBLEMS TO THE IMMEDIATE ATTENTION OF THE APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS. INCLUDING ZIA IF NECESSARY.
- 5. WE HAVE UTILIZED WFP REP TREVOR PAGE TO COORDINATE IMPORT FIGURES WITH OTHER DONORS IN DACCA. HOWEVER, WASHINGTON SHOULD NOTE THAT SOMETIMES INFORMATION AVAILABLE HERE IS LESS THAN PERFECT. NONETHELESS, SO FAR AS WE CAN CHECK THE PROSPECTIVE SCHEDULES APPEAR REALISTIC ON THE BASIS OF PRESENTLY AVAILABLE INFORMATION.
- 6. WE WILL ADDRESS THE CANADIAN CONTRIBUTION BY SEPTEL.

DECONTROL FOLLOWING APRIL 5, 1978. MASTERS

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Message Attributes

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